

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A network system, comprising:

a first information processing apparatus capable of being loaded with a first recording medium; and

a second information processing apparatus capable of being connected to the first information processing apparatus via a network;

a third information processing apparatus capable of being connected to the first information processing apparatus via the network, the third information processing apparatus capable of being loaded with a second recording medium different from the first recording medium,

wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to receive first unique information and second unique information from the first information processing apparatus over the network, the first unique information relating to the first information processing apparatus and the second unique information relating to the first recording medium, the second information processing apparatus being further operable to make reference to each of the received first and second unique information and to third information to verify the first recording medium, the third information being stored in a database included in or connected to the second information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus being further operable to receive fourth information from the third information processing apparatus when the second information processing apparatus receives the second unique information from the first information processing apparatus, the fourth information relating to the second recording medium,

the second information processing apparatus being further operable to refer to the second unique information and the fourth information, such that when the second information processing apparatus determines that the second unique

information and the fourth information are the same, the second information processing apparatus is operable to disable the third information processing apparatus from reading a program stored in the second recording medium.

2. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to cause the database to store at least one of the first unique information or the second unique information.

3. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to cause the database to store both the first and second unique information.

4. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first unique information or the second unique information is stored in the database prior to when the second information processing apparatus receives the first unique information and the second unique information from the first information processing apparatus, and the third information includes at least one of the first unique information stored in the database or the second unique information stored in the database.

5. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the third information includes the first unique information stored in the database and the second unique information stored in the database.

6. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 2, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to cause updated third information to be stored in the database when the second information processing apparatus receives new information including at least one of the first unique information or the second unique information from the first information processing apparatus.

7. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 2, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to cause at least one of the first unique information or the second unique information to be stored in the database whenever unauthorized usage of the first recording medium occurs.

8. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to enable or disable the first information processing apparatus from performing processing.

9. (currently amended) A network system according to claim 1, wherein when the second information processing apparatus determines that the second unique information and the fourth information are the same, the second information processing apparatus is operable to enable or disable the first information processing apparatus from reading a program stored in the first recording medium.

10. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 8, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to transmit at least one of a permission signal for enabling the first information processing apparatus to perform processing or an inhibit signal for disabling the first information processing apparatus from performing processing.

11. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 10, wherein the network system is operable to enable the first information processing apparatus to perform processing when the results of the reference made by the second information processing apparatus indicates that the third information corresponds to the first unique information received from the first information processing apparatus.

12. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 10, wherein:

the network system is operable to cause the first unique information and the second unique information to be stored as interrelated information in the database, such that when the results of the reference made by the second information processing apparatus indicates that the first unique information and the second unique information received by the second information processing apparatus match with the interrelated information in the database, the network system is operable to enable the first information processing apparatus to perform processing.

13. (currently amended) A network system according to claim 91, wherein the first information processing apparatus is operable to encrypt the program stored in the first recording medium and to store the encrypted program in the first recording medium; and

the second information processing apparatus is operable to transmit information for decrypting the encrypted program stored in the first recording medium to enable the first information processing apparatus to read and decrypt the encrypted program stored in the first recording medium.

14. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 13, wherein the information for decrypting includes a decryption key.

15-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A network system according to claim ~~16~~1, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to transmit fifth ~~fourth~~ information to the first information processing apparatus for confirming whether the third information processing apparatus is allowed to execute a program stored on the second recording medium.

18. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 17, wherein the first information processing apparatus is operable to provide consent to the third information processing

apparatus for the third information processing apparatus to execute a program stored on the second recording medium and the third information processing apparatus is operable to execute a program stored on the second recording medium when the third information processing apparatus receives the consent from the first information processing apparatus.

19. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein:

the first information processing apparatus is capable of being loaded with a third recording medium; and

the second information processing apparatus is operable to transmit the first unique information and the second unique information to the first information processing apparatus after the second information processing apparatus has received each of the first and second unique information from the first information processing apparatus, and the first information processing apparatus is operable to enable the second recording medium to store each of the first unique information and the second unique information after the second information processing apparatus receives the first unique information and the second unique information.

20. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 19, wherein the first information processing apparatus is operable to make reference to the second unique information and fourth information stored in the third recording medium to verify the third recording medium.

21. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 20, wherein the first information processing apparatus is enabled to perform processing when the reference made by the first information processing apparatus indicates that the fourth information stored in the third recording medium corresponds to the second unique information.

22. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the first unique information includes an apparatus ID.

23. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the second unique information includes a user ID.

24. (currently amended) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~second unique information includes a recording medium ID.

25. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 1, wherein the first recording medium is an optical disk and the second unique information relating to the first recording medium includes a disk ID.

26. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 25, wherein the disk ID is recorded in a region within a data area of the optical disk or in a region other than the data area of the optical disk.

27. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 25, wherein an address of disk ID data is recorded in a data area of the optical disk and the first information processing apparatus is operable to detect the disk ID based on the recorded address.

28. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 25, wherein the disk ID is recorded in the optical disk with an organic coloring matter.

29. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 25, wherein the disk ID is recorded by physical changes in pit rows.

30. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 29, wherein the physical changes in pit rows include at least one of a change in radical direction of pit rows, a change in the minor axis direction of pit size, or a change in the depth direction of pits in the pit rows.

31. (previously presented) A network system according to claim 26, wherein the disk ID is recorded by electronic watermarking.

32. (currently amended) A method of performing verification of a first recording medium loadable within a first information processing ~~system~~ apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving first unique information and second unique information from the first information processing apparatus by a second information processing apparatus, the first unique information relating to the first information processing apparatus and the second unique information relating to the first recording medium;

receiving fourth information from a third information processing apparatus by the second information processing apparatus, the fourth information relating to a second recording medium loaded in the third information processing apparatus; and

using the second information processing apparatus to make reference to each of the received first and second unique information and to third information stored in a database included in or connected to the second information processing apparatus to verify the first recording medium is authorized for use,

using the second information processing apparatus to compare the received second unique information with the fourth information; and

using the second information processing apparatus to disable the third information processing apparatus from reading a program stored in the second recording medium when the second information processing apparatus determines that the second unique information and the fourth information are the same.

33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) A second information processing apparatus capable of being connected through a network to a first information processing apparatus and to a third information processing apparatus, the first information processing apparatus being capable of being loaded with a first recording medium, the third information processing apparatus being capable of being loaded with a second recording medium, the second information processing apparatus being operable to a) receive first unique information, ~~and~~ second unique information and fourth information, the first unique information relating to the first information processing apparatus, ~~and~~ the second unique information relating to the first recording medium, and the fourth information relating to the second recording medium, and to b) make reference to each of the received first and second unique information and to third information stored in a database included in or connected to the second information processing apparatus to verify the first recording medium, and to c) compare the received second unique information with the fourth information, and to disable the third information processing apparatus from reading a program stored on the second recording medium when the second information processing apparatus determines that the second unique information and the fourth information are the same.

35. (currently amended) A recording medium storing a program for use in verifying a first recording medium for use in a network system, the network system including a first information processing apparatus connectable to a second information processing apparatus over a network and a third information processing apparatus connectable to the second information processing apparatus over the network, the first recording medium having a program stored thereon, the program being executable by the second information processing apparatus

to cause the second information processing apparatus to perform the steps of:

receiving first unique information and second unique information from the first information processing apparatus, the first unique information relating to the first information processing apparatus and the second unique information relating to the first recording medium; and

making reference to each of the received first and second unique information and to third information stored in a database included in or connected to the second information processing apparatus to verify the first recording medium;

receiving fourth information from a third information processing apparatus by the second information processing apparatus, the fourth information relating to a second recording medium loaded in the third information processing apparatus;

using the second information processing apparatus to compare the received second unique information with the fourth information; and

using the second information processing apparatus to disable the third information processing apparatus from reading a program stored in the second recording medium when the second information processing apparatus determines that the second unique information and the fourth information are the same.

36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) A storage medium storing a program for use in verifying a first recording medium for use in a network system including a first information processing apparatus connectable to a second information processing apparatus via a network, the first recording medium having a program stored thereon, the program being executable by the second information processing apparatus to cause the second information processing apparatus to perform the steps of:

receiving first unique information and second unique information from the first information processing apparatus, the first unique information relating to the first information processing apparatus and the second unique information relating to the first recording medium; and

making reference to each of the received first and second unique information and to third information stored in a database included in or connected to the second information processing apparatus to verify the first recording medium;

receiving fourth information from a third information processing apparatus by the second information processing apparatus, the fourth information relating to a second recording medium loaded in the third information processing apparatus;

using the second information processing apparatus to compare the received second unique information with the fourth information; and

using the second information processing apparatus to disable the third information processing apparatus from reading a program stored in the second recording medium when the second information processing apparatus determines that the second unique information and the fourth information are the same.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The network system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to determine whether the first recording medium is authorized for use when the second information processing apparatus verifies the first recording medium.

40. (previously presented) The network system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the determination includes a determination of whether the first recording medium is authorized for use in the first information processing apparatus.

41. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising, when the second information

processing apparatus verifies the first recording medium, determining whether the first recording medium is authorized for use.

42. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the step of determining whether the first recording medium is authorized for use includes determining whether the first recording medium is authorized for use in the first information processing apparatus.